



GSFC Missions Transition into New Geospace Partnership



- A new geospace missions confederation being formed between Polar, Cluster, IMAGE, SOHO, ACE, Geotail and Wind.
- ISTP coordinating science operations, mission operations, and Central Data Handling Facility functions are transitioning into low cost components at the request of NASA HQ.
- Name and position statement still to be worked.
- Science coordination to be in the form of science “campaigns” based on both retrospective data analysis and new observing opportunities, e.g.,
 - How should measurements of interplanetary structures at L1 be interpreted as magnetopause input?
 - What is the connection between auroral substorm onset signatures and near-earth instabilities?
- Activities for the current year include
 - Establish identify and implement plans within the science community
 - Start of campaigns
 - Joint workshops
 - Special session at spring AGU focused on one of the campaigns



Living with a Star/ Geospace Mission Definition Team Activities



- LWS/GMDT met October 22-24 at JHU/APL to continue the task of defining the ionosphere/thermosphere and magnetosphere program for Living With a Star.
- Accomplishments ...
 - Definition and prioritization of general and specific science objectives and their connection to the LWS targeted space weather effects.
 - Definition of the important science processes and mechanisms needing investigation in order to meet the top priority specific science objectives.
 - Initial definition of measurement parameters needed to understand and quantify the science processes and mechanism.
- Activities for the upcoming quarter ...
 - Refinement of specific objectives, processes and measurements
 - Documentation of the prioritization of science objectives and the approaches
 - Investigations into optimal observation methods, launch opportunities, instrument development
- Next LWS/GMDT meeting will be late in January, 2002.



Polar Auroral Science Featured in National Geographic Article



quote from the article: "Scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, are part of an international team at the forefront of research into auroras and connections between the sun and the Earth."

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